

Serial No. 10/689,792

132913-1

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed March 15, 2006. Prior to the entry of the present Amendment in the subject Office Action, claims 1-28 and 51-80 stand rejected and claims 29-50 and 81-110 stand withdrawn from consideration. In the present Amendment, claims 1, 2, 14, 28, 51 and 80 were amended and claims 13, 15, 63 and 66 were canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1-12, 14-62, 64-65 and 67-110 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections to the Specification

In the subject Office Action, the Abstract was rejected. Applicants have provided an amended Abstract.

Rejections to Claims under 35 USC §112

Claims 1-28 and 51-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 28, 51 and 80 to correct the cited antecedent problems. Applicants note that claims 3, 9-19, 26-27, 53 and 59-70 were rejected solely under §112. As such, Applicants submit that at least these claims are currently in condition for allowance.

Rejections to Claims under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 20-25, 28, 51-52, 54-58 and 71-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamazaki et al. (US Pre Grant Publication 2003/0227021; hereinafter "Yamazaki").

Claim 1 is drawn to an electro-active device and recites:

a first metal-containing layer disposed between said electro-active layer and one of said first electrode and said second electrode; wherein said first metal-containing layer comprises at least one metal disposed in a plurality of domains forming a discontinuous layer on a surface of at least one of said first electrode and said second electrode, and wherein at least one of said first electrode and said second electrode is a transparent electrode. (emphasis added)

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Thus, as illustrated in at least Figures 1, 2 and 8, the metal-containing layer is disposed in a plurality of domains, which form a discontinuous layer on the surface of an electrode. Applicants submit that Yamazaki does not teach or otherwise suggest a metal-containing layer that comprises at least one metal disposed in a plurality of domains forming a discontinuous layer on a surface of at least one of a first electrode and said second electrode.

In contrast, Yamazaki teaches the formation of continuous films or a semiconductor layer formed through known methods such as "sputtering, LPCVD, plasma CVD or the like." See e.g., paragraphs [0014], [0067], [0144]. In Applicants' background section (see e.g., paragraphs [0003-0005]), Applicants specifically indicate that such known techniques for depositing metal layers require high temperatures, which may chemically or electronically degrade a variety of substrates including polymeric substrates that Applicants subsequently claim. Moreover, Applicants describe and claim the novel metal layer (that includes a plurality of domains forming a discontinuous layer), which can be formed at temperatures well below that possible with known methods such as sputtering, LPCVD, plasma CVD and the like.

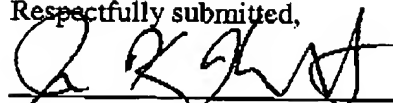
Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-2, 4-8, 20-25, 28, 51-52, 54-58 and 71-80 are not anticipated by Yamazaki and Applicants respectfully request that such claims be allowed. In view of the foregoing amendment and for the reasons set out above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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